



FOURTH SUNDAY EASTER (A)

11TH MAY 2014

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH STANTHORPE

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51ST WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

World Day of Prayer for Vocations to Ordained Ministry (Priesthood) and Religious Life is held on the Fourth Sunday of Easter each year – Good Shepherd Sunday. The World Day of Prayer for Vocations was initiated by Pope Paul VI in 1963 during the Second Vatican Council.

This day offers us an opportunity to remember and pray for those who have already responded to God's call to the Priesthood and Religious Life, and to encourage and pray in a particular way for those men and women God may be calling to service as Priests or Religious.

In his messages fifty years ago, Pope Paul VI said that having or not having a sufficient number of Priests is *"an indicator of the vitality of faith and love of individual parish and diocesan communities, and the evidence of the moral health of Christian families. Wherever numerous vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life are to be found, that is where people are living the Gospel with generosity."*

While that statement of Pope Paul VI is still true fifty years later, we also acknowledge, in a rapidly changing world, that the decline in Priestly and religious vocations in recent decades is a complex issue. Today we have a much more active and involved laity in the life and ministries of the Church, compared to fifty and more years ago. But, the Church still needs ordained Priests to celebrate the Eucharist and the Sacraments – maybe not as many as we used to have, but certainly more than we currently have in our Australian Church and similar countries.



On this day let the focus of our prayer be for Priestly and Religious Vocations for our Australian Church. The Priests and Religious of the future are in our Parishes today. We pray for those the Lord may be calling and we try to create the conditions in our Parishes and homes that will encourage young people to respond generously to God's loving call to service of God's people as Priests or Religious.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ.
We ask that You inspire young people who You call to priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow Your will.

Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached,
the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted,
and Your people are strengthened by the Sacraments.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

POPE FRANCIS: WOMEN AS FIRST WITNESSES

‘The first witnesses of the Resurrection are women. This is beautiful. And this is a bit the mission of women, of mothers and women: witnessing to their children and their grandchildren that Jesus is alive. He is the Living One. He is the Risen One. Mothers and women, go forward with this witness!’

For God, what counts is our hearts.

‘This also leads us to reflect on how women, in the Church and in the journey of faith, have had and still today have a unique role in opening doors to the Lord, in following him and conveying his face, because seeing with faith always takes love’s gaze, which is simple and profound. It is more difficult for the Apostles and disciples to believe: not for the women.’

- Pope Francis, Easter Sunday 2013, Rome

A MOTHERS’ DAY PRAYER

Loving God, we pray:

for new mothers, coming to terms with new responsibility ;
for expectant mothers, wondering and waiting;
for those who are tired, stressed or depressed;
for those who struggle to balance the tasks of work and family;
for those who are unable to feed their children due to poverty;
for those whose children have physical, mental or emotional disabilities;
for those who raise children on their own;
for those who have lost a child;
for those who care for the children of others;
for those whose children have left home;
and for those whose desire to be a mother has not been fulfilled.

Bless all mothers, that their love may be deep and tender,
and that they may lead their children to know and do what is good,
living not for themselves alone, but for God and for others. Amen.

THINGS A MOTHER WILL NEVER SAY



- Just leave all the lights on, dear – it makes the house look more cheery.
- How on earth can you see the TV sitting so far back?
- Sure, I used to skip school a lot, too.
- The time-to-be-home is just a general time to shoot for. It's not like I'm running a prison around here.
- Go ahead and keep that stray dog. I'll be glad to feed and walk him every day.



ENROLMENT FOR CONFIRMATION: There are eighteen children beginning their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation which will be celebrated Friday night 13th June at 6.30PM by Bishop McGuckin. This weekend, the children, together with their parents, will take part in a ceremony of enrolment. We hold these children and their families in our prayers.

DECEASED: Maria Caterina De Marco (Wife of Antonio [Dec], Mother & Mother-In-Law of Mary & Joe Speranza, Demetrius & Sherril, Enna [Dec], Lisa & Vince Saggiomo, Gino [Dec], Teresa & Gordan Leahy), Franco Viterale (Sydney: Brother of Gina Gottardo), Maria Wurst, Alan Neil, Anselmo Maggiolo, Kevin Allen, Mavis Rowe

TO REMEMBER: Riccardo & Walter Cavarzan, Maria & Orazio Di Bella, Augusto Stefanon, Lewis Zanatta, Peter Cassanogo, Fr. Thomas Isaac Fr. Garrett Murphy, Fr. Michael Herbert, Msgr. Thomas Nolan

FOR THE SICK: George Brac, Debra Micallef, Margaret Ballinger, Lorraine McQualter, Dennis Manahan, Alyssa Coxen, Cathy Sullivan, Rita Girgenti, Ron Shambrook, Ev Hayes, Rosemary Paget, Marie Keen, Mavis Plant, Bridey Kelly, Enid McCarthy

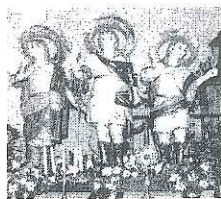
THIS WEEK:

MASSES: MON: 7AM; 10.30AM MASS & ANOINTING OF THE SICK AT BLUE CARE; TUES: 7AM; 10.30AM MASS & ANOINTING OF THE SICK AT CARRAMAR; WED: 11.45AM; THURS: 9.15AM; FRI: 5.30PM; SAT: 7AM; SAT VIGIL: 6.30PM; SUN: 8.30AM

FEAST DAY: WED: ST. MATTHIAS, Apostle

MEETINGS: TUES: 7PM PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

THREE SAINTS FESTIVAL



Congratulations to the Three Saints Committee under the leadership of Joe Spina, the President, for their dedication, hard work and detailed planning and preparation that resulted in the well organised celebrations last Sunday.

After a prayerful Mass with Fr. Lino as the Main Celebrant, Fr. Brian and Fr. Don Murray concelebrating, followed by the Procession, the social celebrations continued into the evening

in the St. Joseph's School Gymnasium, the Bathersby Centre. The food and music were excellent as were the traditional fireworks. There were many visitors from Brisbane who travelled by bus or car to take part in the Festival. We thank our many visitors for supporting the Festival, as so many do each year. A special word of thanks to the ladies who spent the weeks prior to the Festival cooking the Italian and Sicilian delights and treats – an amazing effort by a small dedicated team. To all who assisted at this Festival and supported it thank you.

For the sixth year there was an organised protest by a group of fundamentalists denouncing the wickedness of Catholics engaging in idolatry, punishable by hell fire and damnation. They completely misunderstand Catholic devotion to the Saints. It might be helpful to read again the article in last Sunday's Bulletin. Keep it so you know how to respond should anyone wish to engage you in conversation about it.

COMING UP:

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM will be celebrated during the 8.30AM Mass on **Sunday 25th May, Sunday 15th June and Sunday 6th July**. Parents wishing to have a child baptised need to contact the Parish Office or Fr. Brian well in advance so preparing can be organised. Baptism is usually celebrated once a month.

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME PROGRAM

Planning is underway to introduce in our Parish a much needed, and hopefully very fruitful ministry of compassion and reconciliation – *Catholics Returning Home*. It is hoped it will be a regular feature of Parish life each year. All parishioners will be invited to promote this special ministry by inviting those who have lost contact with the Church and their parish community to reconnect. It is a six week program to welcome Catholics home and to rejoin the faith community and participate in the sacramental life.

The program was developed in the United States by Sally Mews, a wife, mother, tax consultant by profession and herself a returning Catholic. The program she developed has helped many people to rediscover the riches of the Catholic tradition, especially the Sacraments, and become active in their faith.

In 2002, Sally trained Jan Heath and Kathy Robbie from the Petrie Parish in Brisbane to promote and introduce the program throughout Australia and the Oceania region. A small group of parishioners from Stanthorpe attended an information session conducted by Jan Heath in Warwick before Easter and it is now planned to introduce the program in our Parish. You will hear more about this important ministry in the months ahead. **It is intended to offer the program beginning the first week of August.**

FINANCIAL REPORT: The average weekly income from Thanksgiving Envelopes for the January-March 2014 quarter was \$1,639. The average weekly loose collection for the quarter was \$358. Late Christmas Offering Envelopes amounted to \$30. Diocesan payments of 13½% of the above income amounted to \$270 weekly, leaving \$1,730 available for our Parish needs.

Diocesan payments for the quarter were as follows:

- 10% of collection to support the Bishop and Diocese \$2,600.
- 1½% to support Clergy in financially disadvantaged Parishes \$390.
- 1% of collection for the Retired and Sick Priests' Foundation \$260.
- 1% for Priests' Long Service and Study Leave \$260.

All these Diocesan payments for the quarter amounted to \$3,510 (which is \$270 weekly).

Thank you for your support of the Parish and the mission of the Church on the Granite Belt.

JOIN THE PARISH PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM TO HELP YOUR PARISH GROW:

Thank you to all Parishioners who contribute to the Planned Giving Programme. Your commitment assists the responsible budgeting for the operating expenses of the Parish, as well as the pastoral needs of the Parish, not forgetting ongoing maintenance costs. To obtain Planned Giving Envelopes, please complete this form and place on the collection plate or contact the Parish Office.

SURNAME: _____ CHRISTIAN NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____